

J-6130

CSD/NPIC 375/64
8 December 1964
Page 3 of 4MILITARY CAMP
THA THOM, LAOS
1859N 10336E

(SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARD J-0702 FOR COMPARISON)

1. COLLATERAL REPORTS THE THA THOM AREA TO BE IN THE CONTROL OF THE ROYAL LAO ARMY (FAR) AND MEO DETACHMENTS. THE AREA HAS CHANGED HANDS A NUMBER OF TIMES SINCE THE PATHET LAO OFFENSIVE LAST MAY. FAR'S GROUP MOBILE 13, WHICH IS JUST NORTH OF THA THOM, CLAIMS NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE INFILTRATING TO WITHIN 3 MILES OF THE TOWN. RECENT PATHET LAO-NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS IN THE AREA MAY BE CONNECTED WITH PLANS FOR AN OFFENSIVE ON ROUTE 4.

2. [REDACTED] REVEALED TWO AREAS -- ONE ON EACH BANK OF THE NAM SANE (RIVER). A SECURED AREA ON THE WEST BANK CONTAINED 13 BARRACKS AND ONE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. THE AREA ON THE EAST BANK CONTAINED NUMEROUS UNIDENTIFIED BUILDINGS AND SIXTEEN TRUCKS.

3. [REDACTED] REVEALS THE AREA ON THE WEST BANK OF THE RIVER TO BE TOTALLY DISMANTLED. THE BUILDINGS FORMERLY ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE RIVER HAVE ALSO BEEN DISMANTLED; HOWEVER, EIGHT NEW BUILDINGS AND SIXTEEN SHEDS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED. A FOOTBRIDGE, NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED OVER THE RIVER, CONNECTS THE TWO AREAS. (A FOOTBRIDGE WAS FORMERLY AT THIS LOCATION IN NOVEMBER 1963 WHEN IT CONNECTED A FAR COMMAND POST ON THE WEST BANK WITH A NEUTRALIST CAMP ON THE EAST BANK. THA THOM AIRFIELD HAS A 1,700 X 160 FT NW/SE NATURAL SURFACE RUNWAY,

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PROBABLY SERVICEABLE. THREE BOMB CRATERS ARE OBSERVED NEAR THE NORTH-WEST END OF THE RUNWAY.

4. AREA HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN COVERED BY COLD TALE PHOTOGRAPHY.

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